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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

CHINESE RR REGULATIONS ON DANGEROUS FREIGHT;  
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOLIDAY TRAVEL

The Ministry of Railways issued orders to local railway bureaus to make special arrangements to accommodate the huge New Chinese New Year holiday traffic, which was expected to exceed 1952 traffic by more than one million.<sup>7</sup>

Shanghai -- The Ministry of Railways has issued supplementary regulations concerning the shipment of dangerous freight, among which are the following kinds of commodities: (1) powder and other explosives, (2) substances which are easily explosive by nature, (3) liquefied gases under pressure, (4) spontaneously combustible materials, (5) materials which are easily flammable upon contact with water, (6) easily ignitable liquids, (7) easily combustible solid substances; and (8) poisonous, lethal, and corrosive substances. The regulations further provide:

"For rail transport, freight in the above categories must be packed in accordance with the regulations already issued by the Ministry. Under existing conditions where the majority of railway workers are unfamiliar with the names and properties of the numerous kinds of dangerous substances, the shipper will be required to submit a bill of lading and a form in duplicate stating in detail the nature and degree of danger and the precautions required in handling the freight. One of the forms is to be retained at the station of origin and the other is to accompany the bill of lading to the destination.

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"Under 'remarks' on the bill of lading, the shipper must state that a form in duplicate giving in detail the nature and degree of danger of the commodity being shipped has been supplied. Any shipper who makes false or incomplete statements will be held responsible for any damages and will be subject to punishment by law. Any shipment which is not accompanied by this form will be refused by the railway."

The Shanghai Railway Bureau has announced that it will put these regulations into effect beginning 1 January 1953.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO HANDLE NEW YEAR'S CROWDS -- Shanghai, Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 9 Feb 53

Peiping, 8 February (Hsin-hua) -- Anticipating a huge holiday traffic from large urban centers over the old Chinese New Year 14 February in 1953, the Ministry of Railways has issued orders to the railway bureaus to make special arrangements to accommodate the traveling public during this period without disrupting the regular freight service. It is estimated that there will be one million more travelers this year than last.

The bureaus have been directed to utilize to their full capacity all cars in regular service and in reserve, to speed up turnaround time, and to maintain rigid operational schedules. Where necessary, flat cars or gondola cars, fitted with canvas awnings or straw mat coverings, are to be used, but these are to be kept to a minimum. Extra trains for short runs to nearby stations are also to be added. For this holiday traffic, the fares are to be reduced 20 percent. To facilitate the handling of the large volume of traffic the bureaus were instructed to plan the formation of groups going in the same direction to leave at the same prearranged times. As an inducement to freight handlers to maintain the regular schedule of carloadings and unloadings during the holiday period, double wages have been authorized in conformity with the 28 April 1952 order of the Committee of Finance and Economics of the Central People's Government.

Shanghai -- On the afternoon of 7 February 1953, the Ministry of Railways conducted by long-distance telephone a conference with all the railway bureaus of the country on the subject of handling the extra traffic expected during the holiday season. Beside the measures mentioned above, it was suggested that work on cars now being repaired be speeded up, and that work on cars awaiting repairs be postponed until after the holiday rush.

The Canton and Liu-chou Railway Bureaus were instructed to loan some of their available passenger cars to the Shanghai Railway Bureau to enable the latter to cope with the crowds. The cooperation of government offices, labor and trade unions, and public organizations, was enlisted in advance to instruct the public how to act so as to facilitate rapid and safe movement of large numbers of people in the stations and on the trains.

It is estimated that the number of holiday travelers leaving the Shanghai station this year will be between 250,000 and 300,000 people. The Shanghai Railway Bureau expects to add 82 extra trains to the 189 regularly scheduled passenger trains during the holiday period February 8 - 18.

For the convenience of people wanting to leave Shanghai for points between Hangchow and Ning-po, Chekiang, the Shanghai authorities have arranged with the Chekiang Provincial Transport Company to handle on their buses the extra number of holiday travelers who hold through tickets issued in accord with the already existing railway-bus through transport arrangement. These tickets are on sale at four different ticket offices in the various parts of the city.

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